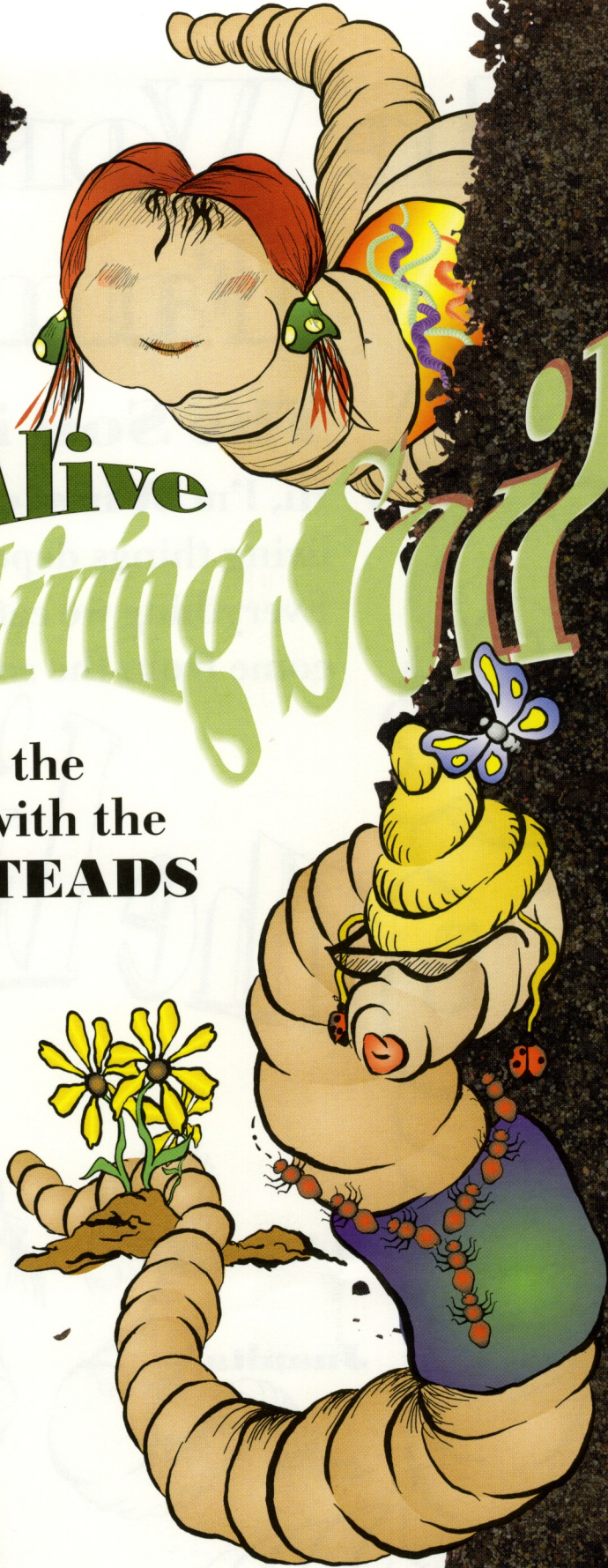
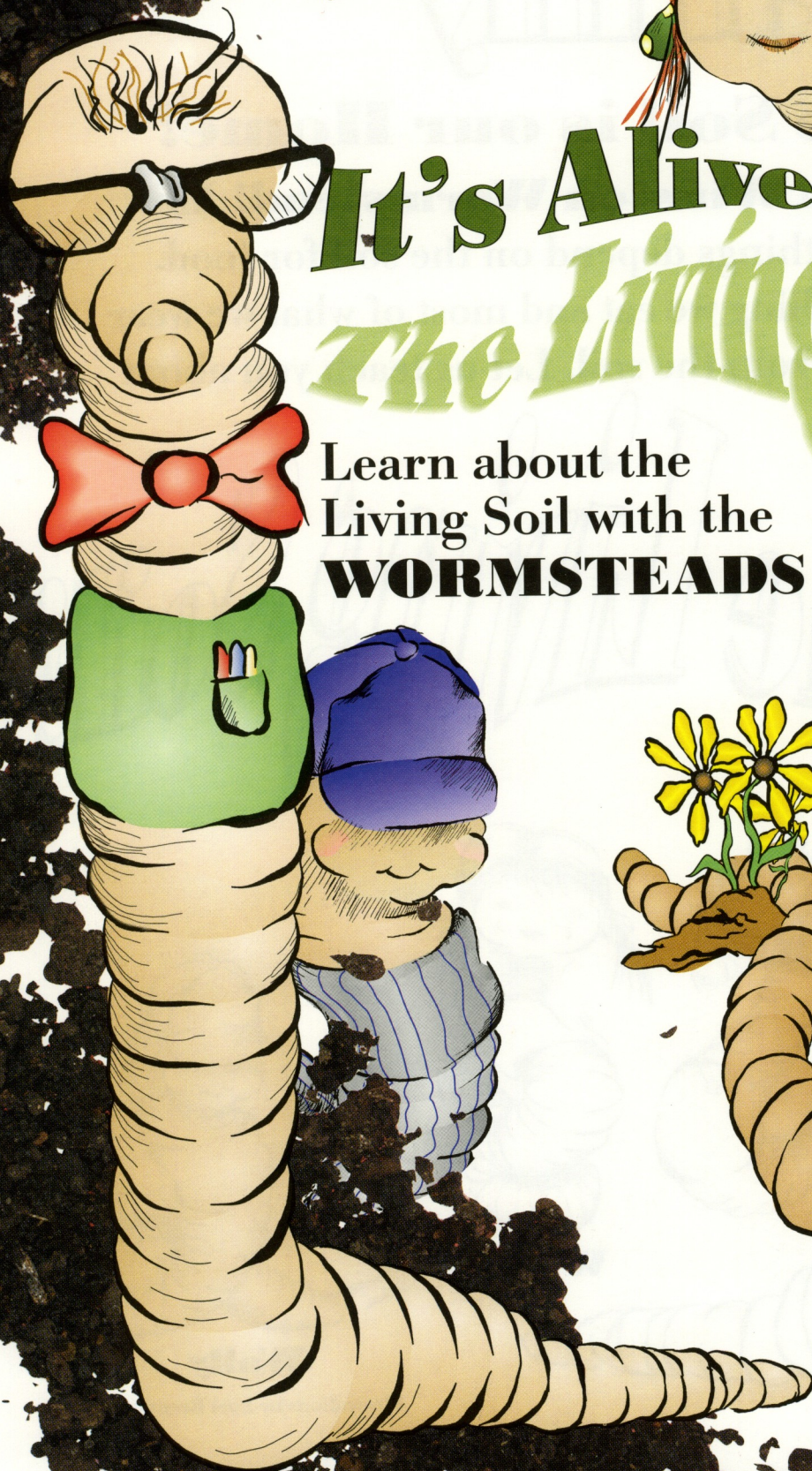


It's Alive *The Living Soil?*

Learn about the
Living Soil with the
WORMSTEADS

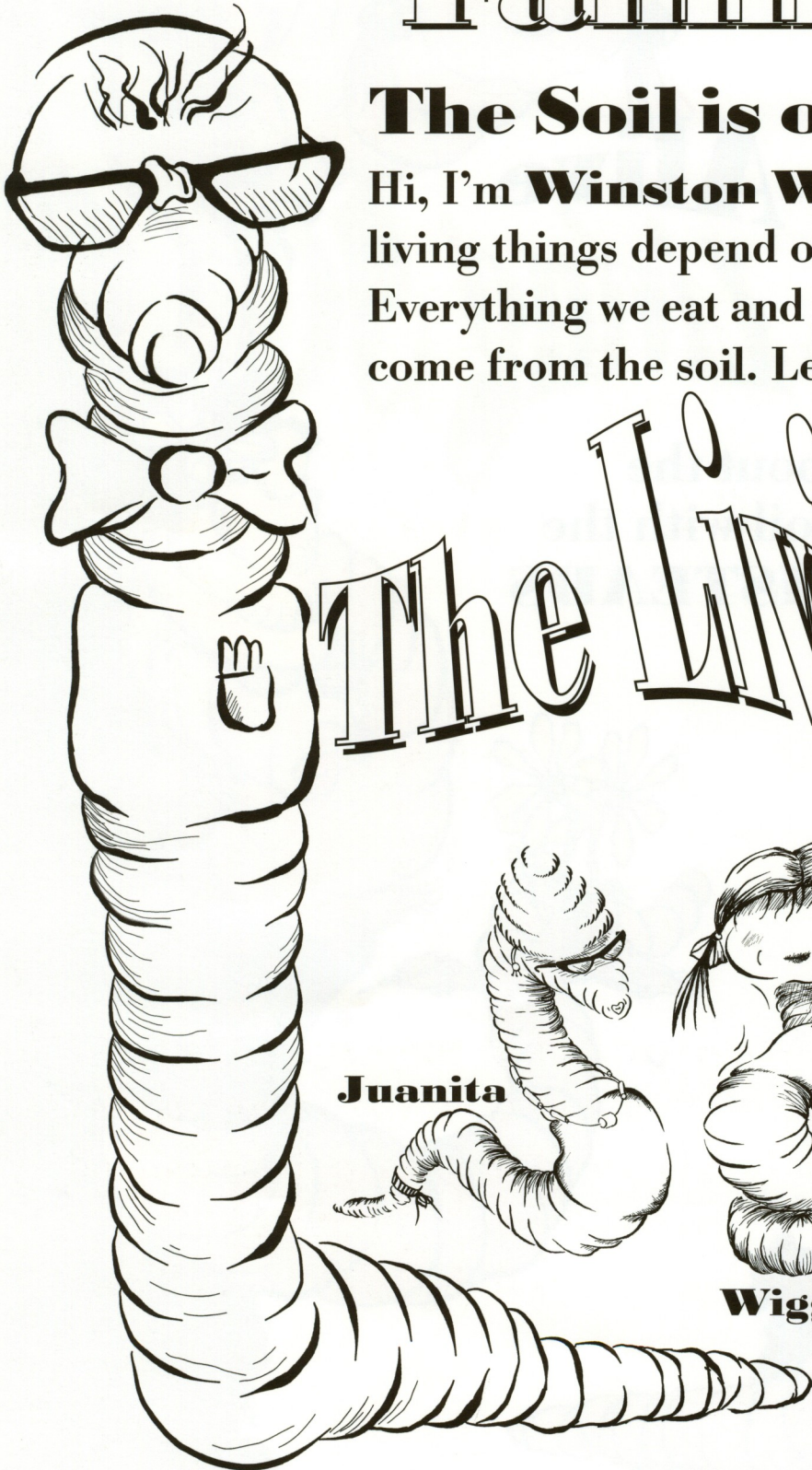


The Wormstead Family

The Soil is our Home!

Hi, I'm **Winston Wormstead**! All living things depend on the soil for food. Everything we eat and most of what we wear come from the soil. Let us teach you about

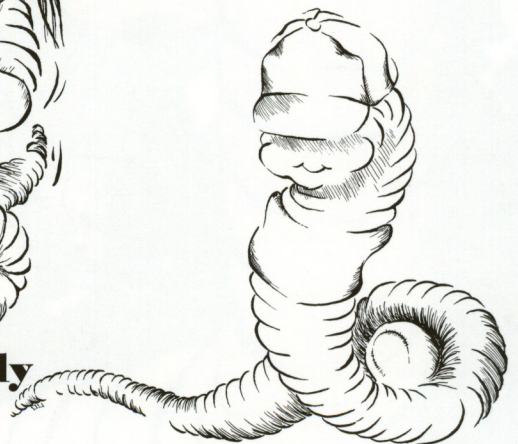
The Living Soil!



Juanita

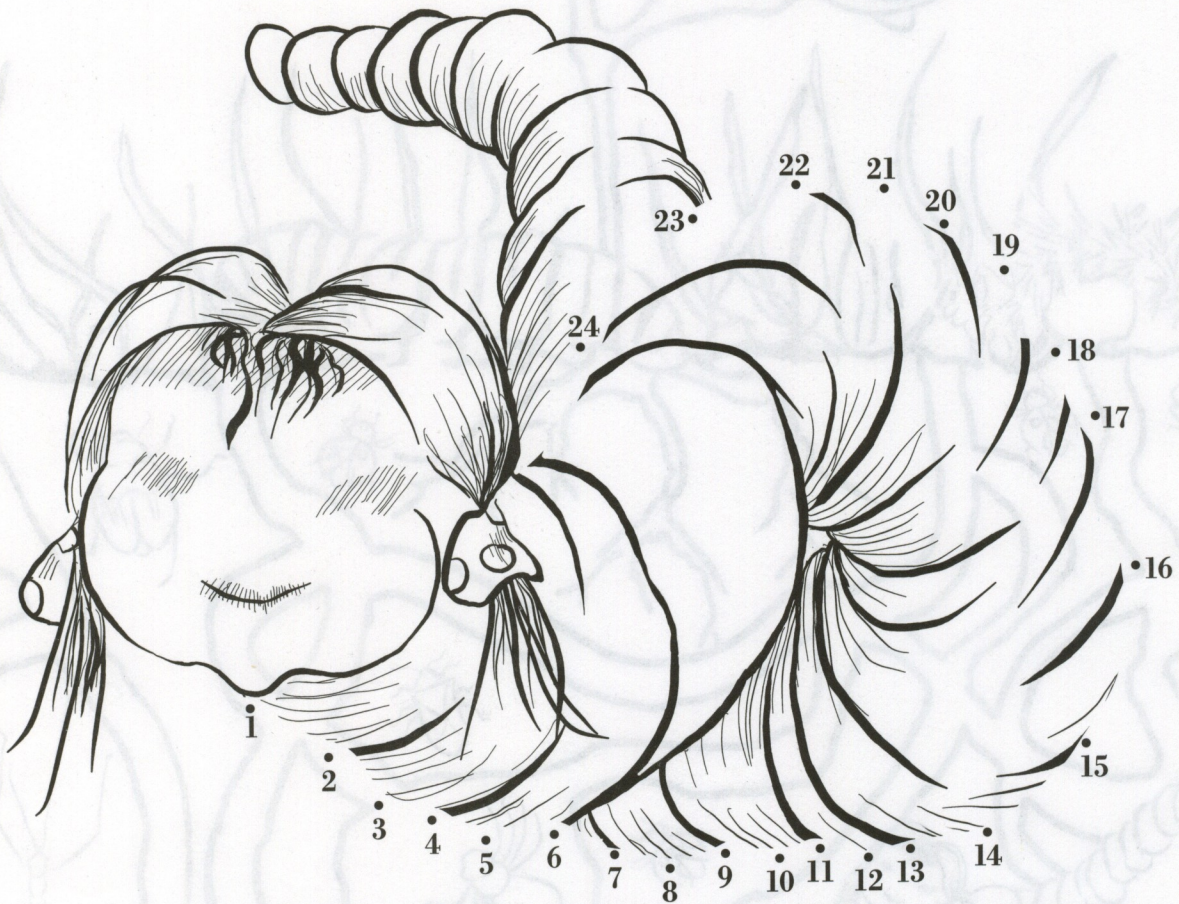


Wiggly

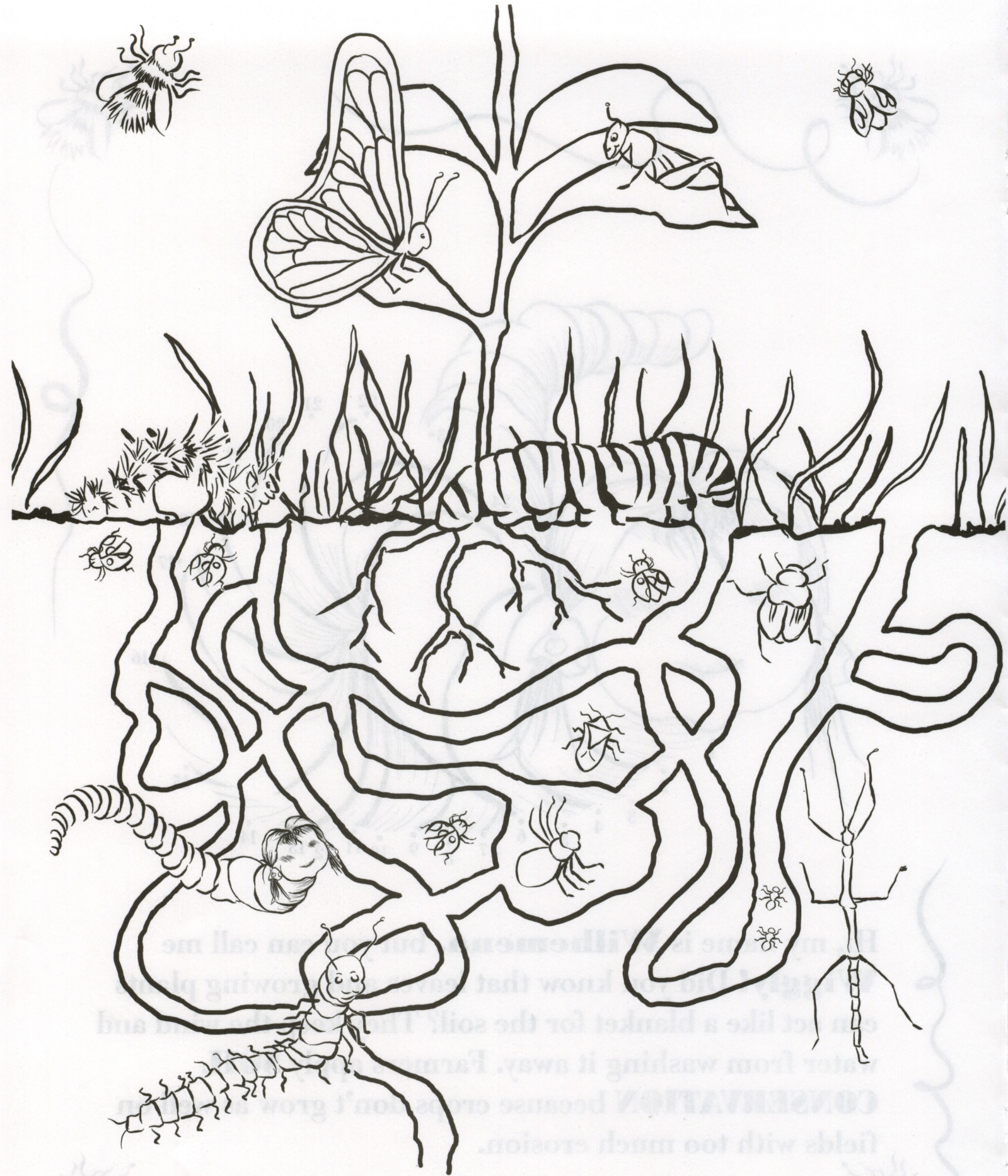


Wally

Illustrations by Luci Branyan



Hi, my name is **Wilhemena**, but you can call me **Wiggly**! Did you know that leaves and growing plants can act like a blanket for the soil? They keep the wind and water from washing it away. Farmers apply **SOIL CONSERVATION** because crops don't grow as well on fields with too much erosion.



Worm tunnels not only help loosen the **soil**, but make plant growth easier.

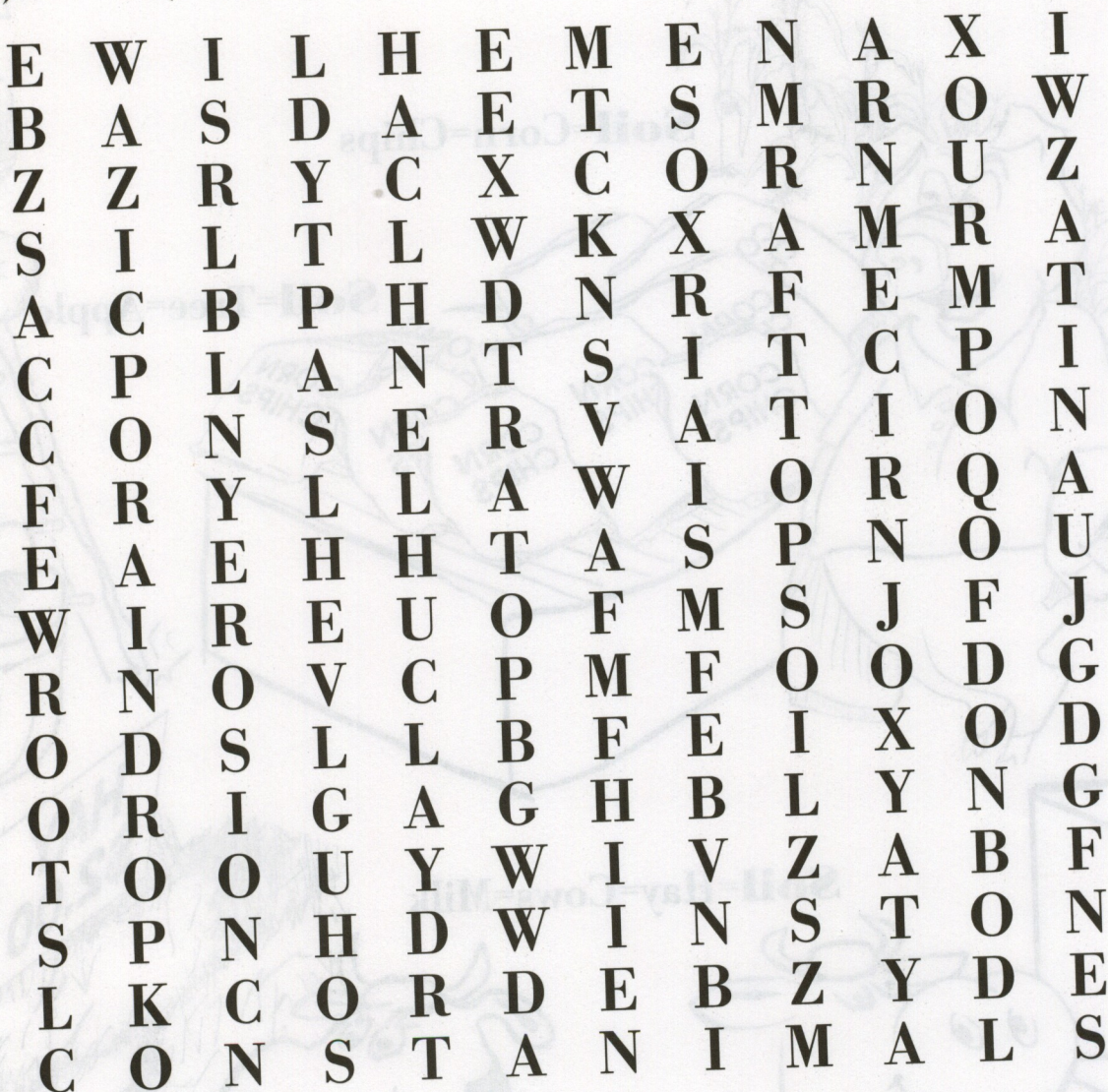
Hi, I'm **JUANITA!** Wind and water break down the **parent material** and it mixes with rotten organic material from the top soil to make the **subsoil**, or **B-horizon**. Down at the bottom, there's the parent material, made up of rock. That's the **C-horizon**.



- 1. Tan
- 2. Yellow
- 3. Blue
- 4. Green
- 5. Red
- 6. Purple
- 7. Orange
- 8. Brown



Each splash from a raindrop hitting bare earth lifts up soil particles and carries them away. This is called **soil erosion**.



E	W	I	L	H	E	M	E	N	A	X	I
B	A	S	D	A	E	T	S	M	R	O	W
Z	Z	R	Y	C	X	C	O	R	N	U	Z
S	I	L	T	L	W	K	X	A	M	R	A
A	C	B	P	H	D	N	R	F	E	M	T
C	P	L	A	N	T	S	I	T	C	P	I
C	O	N	S	E	R	V	A	O	I	P	N
F	R	Y	L	L	A	W	I	P	R	Q	A
E	A	E	H	H	T	A	S	S	N	O	U
W	I	R	E	U	O	F	M	O	J	F	J
R	N	O	V	C	P	M	F	I	X	D	G
O	D	S	L	L	B	F	E	L	Y	O	N
T	R	I	G	A	G	H	B	Z	A	N	B
S	O	O	U	Y	W	I	V	S	T	O	D
L	P	N	H	D	A	E	N	M	A	L	S
C	O	N	S	T	A	N	I				

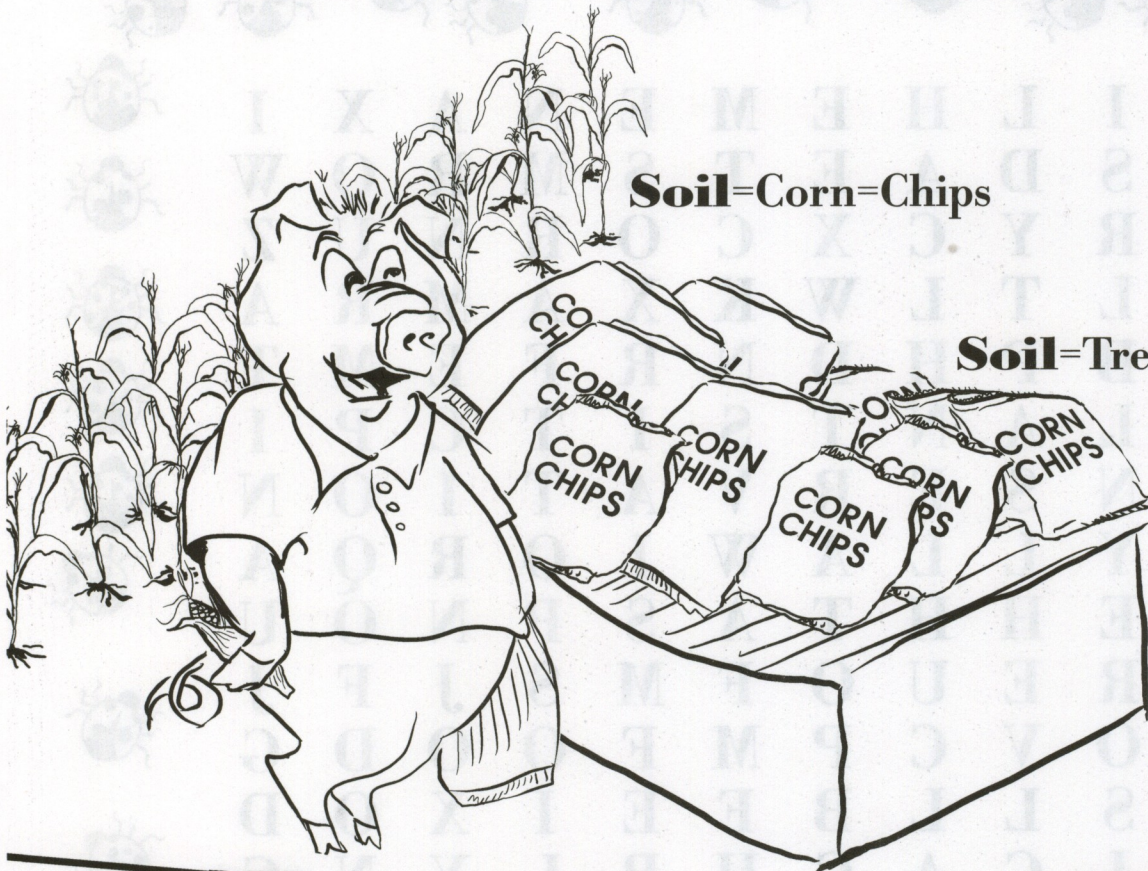
Find and circle the following words:

Air
Animals
Bedrock
Clay
Conservation
Corn
Earth
Erosion

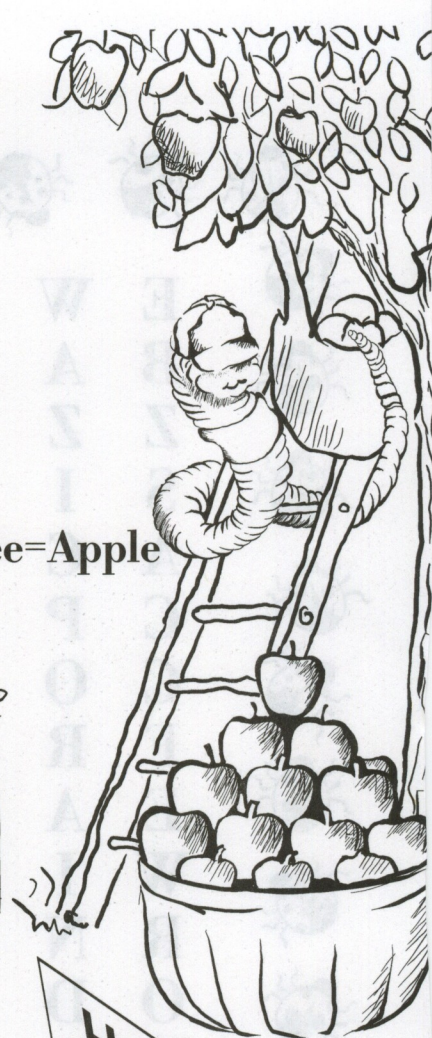
Farm
Food
Home
Juanita
Plants
Raindrop
Roots
Sand

Silt
Topsoil
Wally
Water
Wilhemena
Winston
Wormsteads

All things come from the **soil**.



Soil=Corn=Chips



Soil=Tree=Apple



Soil=Hay=Cows=Milk

Soil Horizons

A-Topsoil

B-Subsoil

C-Rock/Bedrock

Soil has three different layers or horizons. Food grows best in the **A-Horizon**, the **topsoil**.



Good conservation practices can prevent **erosion** and save **topsoil**.



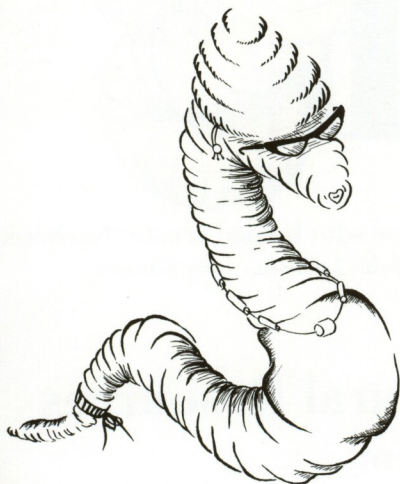
Conserving the Soil

I, _____ ,

PRINT YOUR NAME

promise to join forces with
the **Wormsteads**
to conserve our **soil**
and help save the

EARTH.



The Wormstead Family
reminds you that by conserving our soil,
you are helping to save the ...




Special thanks to those who helped create this book:
Lori Bax, Jim Boschert, John Johnson, Judy Stinson



Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Soil and Water Conservation Program

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